

San Diego River Conservancy  
Capital Outlay Proposals  
2007-08

BCP-02 Recreation and Education

The Conservancy requests \$750,000 comprised of \$250,000 each from the following funds: General Fund, Environmental License Plate Fund, and future Park/Water or Conservation Bond Act funds. The requested appropriation would be extensively leveraged with other Conservancy funding sources (Prop 40 River Parkways) and partner contributions.

The purpose of the requested appropriation is to advance the Conservancy's Recreation and Education Program by funding high priority projects which provide and enhance recreational and educational opportunities within (or about) the San Diego River Area. Specifically, the funds will be used to (1) develop San Diego River trail segments in the headwaters, El Monte Valley, Lakeside, the City of Santee, and the City of San Diego; and (2) pay for the cost of printing and distributing an educational book for children about the San Diego River entitled "Nico the Gnatcatcher and the Upside Down River" that was recently written by a local 7<sup>th</sup> grade class.

I have several concerns with the request. The request asks for 3 fund sources that are problematic. Generally, land conservancy's are not appropriated General Fund for acquisitions. The state General Fund is still in a deficit mode for 07-08 and the appropriation of limited General Fund dollars for land acquisition will probably not be a priority of the administration. In addition to the problems with General Fund, the ELPF is currently out of balance with expenditure exceeding revenues by in excess \$1 million annually. Finally, the request includes \$250,000 of future Park/Water/Conservation Bond funds. It is not policy of the Administration to appropriate from fund sources that do not already exist. In addition, the current bond proposal does not include any funding for the SDRC; therefore there would no source of the funds to appropriate from. .

Based on the preceding analysis I cannot support the request.